

have elected them, but it's their friends, basically, in most of these counties, come in and say, my property is valued too high, what do we really expect them to do? You know, it's easier for a group who says, I'm sorry, the law is this way and it must be enforced, that's the value, I see, of this state board, and I...my hope is that the locals would do, you know, an even better job than they're doing today, given the situation that they're in.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you. I appreciate that because I do think the county assessors are in an almost impossible situation and my disappointment in their job performance is basically not because they aren't doing the very best they can but simply, under the politics of the situation of being elected and the impossible task of dealing...

SPEAKER WITHEM: One minute.

SENATOR WESELY: ...with people's property assessment, I...you know, I guess they're doing as well as they can but the end result is a very unequal system that we've had. That's why I do like the concept of taking this out of the elected board that we now have and into an appointed board, but I think ultimately we'll be able to withstand the political heat that will go along with the job that they have to do. So I do...I do support the amendment. I do hope that it carries forward and bears fruit in even more ways than we anticipate at this time, but this is a fundamental problem and I'm glad it's being addressed with this amendment.

SPEAKER WITHEM: Thank you, Senator Wesely. Further discussion on the motion to advance? Senator Kr'stensen, I see none. Do you have a closing?

SENATOR KRISTENSEN: Just briefly, Senator Withem, thank you. Again, this is the Tax Equalization and Review Commission. This would put it back on the ballot and still accomplishes the things that we were attempting to do last November. I would be happy...I've got a packet of things about property taxation and equalization and valuation. For members who want to come back and review that, I would be happy to photocopy the packet and give it to them. This is a...this is not going to solve every problem with property tax, believe me. It's going to make the system fairer and, hopefully, it will give more integrity to our distribution of state aid and other monies that we do send out